

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief John R. Batiste



Captain Jeff DeVere
Government and Media Relations
(360) 753-5299 – office
(360) 753-5469 – fax
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: August 4, 2005
Contact: Lieutenant Travis Matheson
Phone: (360) 791-9255

Seven Canines Graduate from the WSP Academy

Today, seven WSP canines and one canine from New Mexico State Police graduated from the Washington State Patrol Academy, during a ceremony held at WSP headquarters in Olympia.

The WSP Canine Unit began with the deployment of two explosive detection teams on October 8, 1997 and has now grown into one of the largest canine programs in the nation.

“These dogs are a wonderful addition to our team,” said Chief John R. Batiste. “Along with their handlers, these dogs will work hard every day to ensure the safety of the citizens of this state.”

These dogs will be a part of the WSP Vessel and Terminal Security Division, which encompasses vessel security for the entire WSF fleet and terminal security in five Western Washington counties: Clallam, Island, King, Kitsap, and Snohomish.

###

Note: Attached is a picture of the graduating WSP canines and their handlers. The photo was taken by WSP photographer Weldon Wilson, and the media does have permission to use it.

Caption: Back row (left to right) are: Captain Steve Sutton; Trooper Guy Rosser and K-9 Sed; Trooper David Schlesselman and K-9 Rusty; Trooper Dave Dixon and K-9 Neville; and Lieutenant Travis Matheson. Front row (left to right) are: Trooper Ken Klukas and K-9 Mirko; Trooper Adam Flett and K-9 Copper; Trooper Thomas Martin and K-9 Bones; and Trooper Samantha Pratt and K-9 Betsy.